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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Gera

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DATE OF CONTENT 23 December 1951 to 12 January 1952

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DATE PREPARED 6 February 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. On 12 January 1952, the Reuss Kaserne on Franz Petrich Strasse, Gera (M 51/K 06) was occupied by an undetermined number of troops, most of whom wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank, artillery or motor transport insignia. A few wore black-bordered red epaulets. With the exception of a large barracks building in the central section of the billeting area, all barracks buildings were lighted in the evening hours. A local resident who previously worked in the installation said that the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by 4,000 to 5,000 troops. Trucks and not less than 60 tanks were seen in the garages of the installation on 4 January. The troops seen in the billeting area were engaged in interior duties, theoretical instruction and guard drill.

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2. A laborer who worked in the Panzer Kaserne, Gera-Tinz, said that on 10 and 11 January, following the arrival of a small advance party, the installation was occupied by about 250 artillerymen, allegedly recruits. The artillery troops were said to have come from Weimar and were commanded by a colonel. They brought no artillery pieces along.

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and is believed to belong to an unidentified component of the AT artillery brigade. The report therefore indicates that, contrary to previous assumptions, sizable components of the brigade remained at the Gera military post. See [redacted] There have been no indications regarding the present location of the Lq XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, which has not been determined at any other post, e.g., Rudolstadt or Saalfeld to date. The corps' unidentified rocket launcher regiment is believed to have been transferred to Saalfeld. [redacted] The assignment of the 60 tanks mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present report cannot be determined. To date, tanks have only been reported by local residents [redacted]

[redacted] There is a possibility that the tanks observed may belong to this regiment. In this case, however, the estimate of 60 tanks is exaggerated. A substantial reduction in the number of tanks stationed in Weimar-Mohra was reported in December 1951. [redacted] In the light of this information, it appears credible that a unit from Weimar, possibly a training unit of the 20th Gds Mecz Div, moved to the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz. The corps headquarters troops which vacated the Panzer Kaserne, leaving the installation unoccupied for some time, probably went to Rudolstadt and Saalfeld. [redacted]

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SECRET [redacted]